25 years since 9.11.01

We Remember September 11, 2001

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

The Choctaw
Sun-Advocate

www.choctawsun.org

Vol. 23 No. 37



Rebels take control in second half at Southern

The South Choctaw Academy Rebels went on the road Friday, September 4, to Greensboro to take on the Southern Academy Cougars. The teams were tied at 8-8 at the half, but the Rebels went ahead in the second half, winning 24-8. With the win, SCA is now 2-0 on the year. See more inside. Photo by Mike Goodall Photography

Sturdivant says: "It's going to be a tough year"

County Commission recesses until Monday to discuss FY 2027 budget allocations

By Dee Ann Campbell

BUTLER – "It's going to be a tough year."

Choctaw County Commission Chairman Jason Sturdivant told the commission on Tuesday that decisions must soon be made in regard to allocations for the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2027, and those decisions may be difficult.

During their September 8th meeting, Sturdivant presented letters from outside entities for allocations for the upcoming fiscal year. Included in the letters were requests from the Choctaw County Cooperative Extension Office (request for$12,500) and the Choctaw County Health Department (request for $5,000), along with non-enumerated requests from the Regional Child Advocacy Center, West Alabama Health Service, and the Choctaw County chapter of the American Red Cross.

In considering the requests, Sturdivant said that the commission would likely have to make some tough decisions, in light of

Continued on page 3

Commission approves revised MOU with Drug Court for use of opioid settlement funds

By Dee Ann Campbell

BUTLER – An amendment to an agreement with the First Judicial Circuit Drug Court was approved by the Choctaw County Commission on Tuesday, September 1, to satisfy requirements for the use of opioid settlement funds.

County attorney Lee McPhearson reminded the Commission during their September 1st meeting that, during their review of the county's 2024 financial records, auditors had raised concerns over the county's agreement to use funds from opioid lawsuit settlements to fund operations of the Drug Court's drug and alcohol education and prevention program.

The First Judicial Circuit Drug Court serves Clarke, Choctaw, Marengo, Sumter, and Washington counties, providing non-violent, first-time offenders with the option to go through a substance abuse treatment program instead of incarceration.

In July of 2024, the County Commission allocated $10,000 for the program per year for a five-year period, with the funds coming from the county's share of settlement money from a series of opioid lawsuits. Funds from the settlements were required to be used solely for opioid abuse education and prevention purposes.

McPhearson told the Commission in July that the auditors had intended to issue a finding about the use of the funds because the program included not only opioid abuse prevention but also abuse of alcohol and other drugs. He added that the county had asked for them to reconsider their intent to issue the findings.

"They decided not to make an official finding but asked that we modify the agreement stating that the money would be used for opioid drug education and prevention, and operating expenses for the program," McPhearson said.

He presented an amended Memorandum of Understanding with the Drug Court clarifying that the funds would be used solely in regard to opioid abuse, adding that the auditors had approved the revised MOU. He explained that the Drug Court program would use other funds for their work when it came to alcohol and other drug abuse.

County Administrator Jessica Hare said that the Drug Court program would be required to provide the county with information about where the money was spent.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the revised MOU.

Drought puts Choctaw, Hale, Perry, Bibb, and Marengo on forage payment list

Livestock producers in Hale, Perry, Bibb, Marengo and Choctaw counties and 55 other Alabama counties are eligible for payments under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Livestock Forage Disaster Program after this summer's drought triggered assistance across most of the state, according to the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

The program, run through the Farm Service Agency, compensates eligible producers who suffered grazing losses on covered

Continued on page 3

USDA launches screwworm page for hunters ahead of deer season

With hunting season approaching, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a New World screwworm web page written for hunters, wildlife professionals and others who spend time in the field, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries said this week.

New World screwworm is a parasitic fly whose larvae burrow into the flesh of living animals and feed on living tissue. It can infest livestock, pets, wildlife and, less commonly, people. Wildlife can spread the pest over wide areas and across state lines, and USDA is asking hunters to stay alert for unusual wounds, abnormal behavior or signs of distress in animals and to report them early.

USDA confirmed the first U.S. case in nearly 60 years in June in a calf in Zavala County, Texas. The cases confirmed since then have been in cattle, sheep, goats and dogs in Texas and in one dog in New Mexico, and USDA says the current risk to animals and people in the United States is very low.

The screwworm fly is about the size of a housefly, with orange eyes, a metallic blue-green body and three dark stripes on its back. The flies are drawn to open wounds, including tick bites, where they lay hundreds of eggs, and may also be drawn to antler bases after shedding and to mucous membranes. Hunters should look for maggots on live or freshly dead animals or in wounds, noses, ears, genitalia or the navels of newborns; wounds with bloody discharge and a foul odor; and animals that are in pain, lethargic or agitated.

Anyone who sees signs of screwworm should call USDA Wildlife Services at 866-487-3297 as soon as possible, record the location, take photos of the wounds and larvae if possible, and not handle or

Continued on page 3



Pointing the way to victory for the Saints

A powerful rushing attack and a timely interception returned for a touchdown led the Patrician Academy Saints to a 35-19 victory over the Monroe Academy Vols on Friday night, September 4, in Monroeville. See more Friday night football highlights, scores, and photos inside. Photo by Elizabeth Perry.

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Southern Academy vs South Choctaw Academy

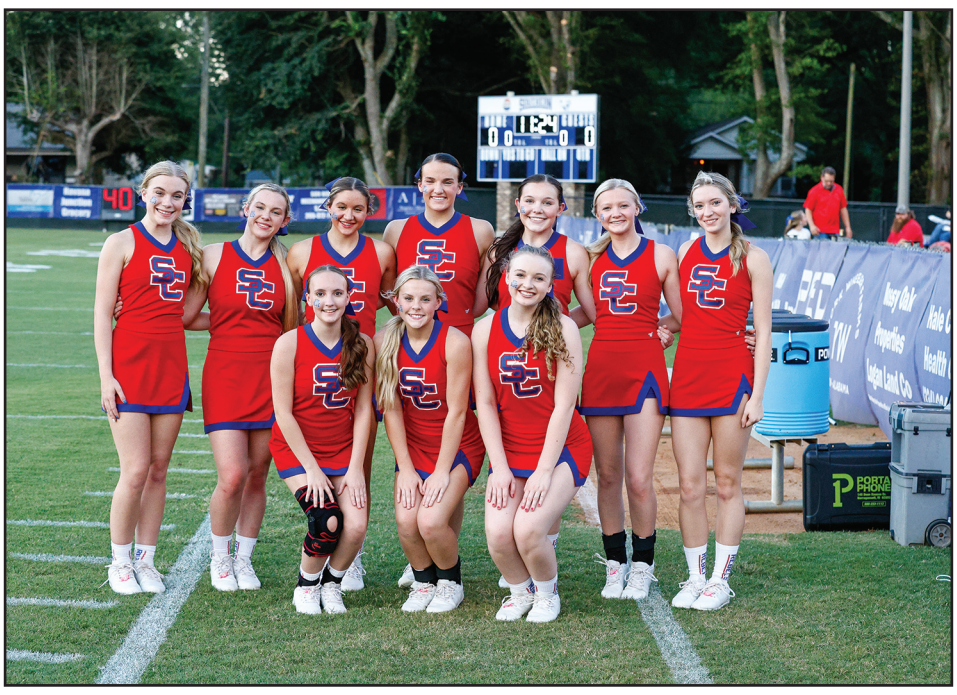
The South Choctaw Academy Rebels defeated the Southern Academy Cougars 24-8 on Friday, September 4, in Greensboro. *Photos by Mike Goodall Photography*













PUBLIC NOTICE

Choctaw County wishes to levy an additional ad valorem tax of up to five (5) mills, beginning October 1, 2027, for no more than five (5) years, with all proceeds used solely for the projects in the Road and Bridge Plan, as advertised below, to improve safety for the traveling public and promote economic development for industry and businesses, and authorizing the Commission to finance such projects through county warrants payable from those tax revenues. The projects shall be completed no later than January 1, 2033.

PAY AS YOU GO PROGRAM - ROAD AND BRIDGE PLAN (RESURFACING PROJECTS)

PROPOSED ROAD NAMES & DESCRIPTIONS	*TOTAL MILEAGE*	*ESTIMATED PROJECT COST*	*PAY AS YOU GO FUNDS*	*OTHER FUNDS*
BENT TREE RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	1.46	$438,000.00	$438,000.00	
MT OLIVE RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17	0.50	$152,500.00	$152,500.00	
CR 42 (From Pine Grove Rd to End of Pavement)	3.35	$988,250.00	$988,250.00	
DAKOTA RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	0.40	$90,000.00	$90,000.00	
LOTTS FERRY RD (From AL 114 to End of Pavement)	0.90	$202,500.00	$202,500.00	
WHITE OAK RD (From AL 114 to Grey Fox Rd)	0.35	$80,500.00	$80,500.00	
GREY FOX (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 114)	0.65	$146,250.00	$146,250.00	
TUSCAHOMA (From AL 10 to End of Maintenance)	4.26	$1,482,250.00	$77,000.00	$1,405,250.00
CR 7 (From CR 32 to End of Pavement)	2.95	$929,250.00	$929,250.00	
TINKER RD (From CR 9 to End of Pavement)	2.26	$644,100.00	$644,100.00	
SANDY CUT RD (From Riderwood Dr to End of Pavement)	1.60	$360,000.00	$360,000.00	
DICEY RD (From Beginning of Pavement to Scott Mt Rd)	0.65	$152,750.00	$152,750.00	
MT NEBO RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 10)	1.27	$292,100.00	$292,100.00	
RIDERWOOD RD (From Sunday Dr to AL 17)	2.00	$660,000.00	$419,000.00	$241,000.00
NARROW RD (From Land Road to Pinhook Rd)	3.12	$936,000.00	$936,000.00	
SINGLEY RD (From AL 17 to End of Pavement)	1.95	$604,500.00	$604,500.00	
LASSITER RD (From AL 17 to End of Pavement)	1.10	$308,000.00	$308,000.00	
SOUWILPA RD (From Beginning of Pavement to AL 17)	1.08	$313,200.00	$313,200.00	
TURNERTOWN RD (From Needham Rd to Brightwater Rd)	3.90	$1,092,000.00	$91,400.00	$1,000,600.00
CLARK RD (From AL 17 to Barrytown Rd)	3.00	$810,000.00	$810,000.00	
SHADY GROVE RD (From AL 84 to CR 6)	2.50	$700,000.00	$700,000.00	
LUCAS RD (From Chapel Hill Rd to Wimberly Rd)	1.47	$382,200.00	$382,200.00	
BRIARWOOD RD (From Pleasant Hill Rd to End of Pavement)	1.40	$294,000.00	$294,000.00	
MOSLEY BRIDGE RD (From Barrytown Rd to Chapel Hill Rd)	3.98	$1,134,300.00	$88,500.00	$1,045,800.00
TOTAL PROPOSED MILEAGE =	**46.10**	$13,192,650.00	$9,500,000.00	$3,692,650.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PAY AS YOU GO FUNDS =		**$9,500,000.00**		

NEWS AND EVENTS

OBITUARIES

Randall "Randy" Keith Mars



Randall "Randy" Keith Mars, 59, of Lisman, Alabama, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2026, in Birmingham, Alabama. A celebration of life service will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, beginning at 12:00 P.M., from the Chapel of Bumpers Funeral Home in Butler, with Reverend Jamie Sims officiating. Burial will follow at the Mars Camp in Lisman. Visitation for Randy will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Randy was born on December 6, 1966, in Meridian, Mississippi. After a fulfilling career in his family's mobile home business, he then started two businesses of his own, serving his community through RKM Construction and Shiloh Farmer's Market in Whynot, Mississippi.

He is preceded in death by his father, Richard Mars. He is survived by his son, Jacob Seth Mars (Katherine); his mother, Frances Flemming (Joe); his brother, Richard "Ricky" Mars (Amy); numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Kyle Mars, RJ Main, Weston Main, Ashton Stuart, Justin Rahmel, Jason Rahmel.

Randy will be remembered for his giving heart, his good nature, and his love for his friends and family. He never met a stranger, and every soul fortunate enough to meet him was all the better for it.

Visit bumpersfuneralhome.com to sign the online register and post condolences to the family.

Arrangements entrusted to Bumpers Funeral Home of Butler.

Thelma Payton



Funeral services for First Lady Thelma Payton were held Saturday, September 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 2321 Tinker Road, Lisman, Alabama 36912. Interment was in the Church cemetery with Pastor Byron Coleman officiating.

First Lady Thelma Payton gained her wings on September 1, 2026. She peacefully transitioned at home with her daughter right by her side.

She was preceded in death by her late husband Johnny B. Payton, her sister Tomasenia Jackson and her father John Stephens Sr. and her grandson Rashaun Walker.

Thelma Payton served as First Lady for the last 10 years. She also started a non-profit organization called God's Hand In Action. The organization was made to help the youth, underprivileged, elderly and doing God's will.

She was loved and respected by many. She positively impacted many lives. She was a God-fearing women who strived everyday to let her light shine so that others could see the goodness of God. She also has given scholarship money to graduate through her foundation.

She leaves to cherish her memories and legacy with 5 kids, Lanoris (Aimee) Patterson, Alexandria (Jerome) Blanks, Dyneius (Calmethia) Goodson, Darneia (Jasmine) Goodson, Margaret (Christopher) Herring, adopted son, Julius (Shannon) Patterson; grandkids, Quintavius, Aaliyah, Quineshia, Sa'lesure, Treasure, Dyneius Jr, Jerome Jr, Ariyah, Joshua, Nylah, JaDavion, Camden, Phoenix, Jerlandria, Ramsey, Paxton; five great grandkids; her mother, Myra Jackson; siblings, Johnny Patterson, Julia Patterson, Reginald Jackson, Jacqueline Hilton, and Gary Jackson; a host of nieces and nephews; Kena Walker, Tamia Wooten, and Ernandez Washington; God kids and a host of family and friends that loved her family.

Final arrangements entrusted to Hayden & Butler Funeral Home, Inc., 10031 Crowell Drive, Post Office Box 128, Lisman, Alabama 36912. Condolences may be posted at haydenandbutler.com.

More tough year - from front page

increased costs for electricity, costs for the payment and operation of the new jail, and a relatively stagnant revenue stream.

"Insurance premiums are going up," said County Administrator Jessica Hare. "Electricity costs are up, supply costs are up – but revenues are staying the same."

Hare said that she did not anticipate being able to provide pay raises for county employees for the upcoming budget year.

"We have to make some tough decisions," she said, advising the commission to put off any budget decisions until they could glean more information about potential health insurance rate hikes. Hare said that she would be meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield later this week.

Sturdivant added that the county would have to start making payments on the new jail construction.

"We are expecting completion sometimes in January," he said, adding that there would be additional budgetary costs for jail operation and maintenance going forward.

Sturdivant said that the cost for the construction of the jail would be about $600,000 annually.

"Those are some of the things that we have extra costs on, with no extra money basically," he said. "We can talk about appropriations or wait and recess until later. It's just going to be a tough year for everybody. We need to cut as much as we can, in my opinion."

In other business, the Commission approved an agreement with Animal Control Officer Shannon Mosley to continue to serve in that capacity.

The Commission also approved a statewide mutual aid agreement between the state Emergency Management agency, the Alabama Association of County Commissions, and the local EMA to provide assistance county-to-county in the event of a major disaster. EMA Director Jody Lindsey told the Commission that the agreement involves assisting other counties with disaster response if needed, and vice versa.

County Attorney Lee McPhearson said that he had reviewed the agreement and found no issues with the contract.

"This is a voluntary agreement, and it doesn't place any obligation to have to go and help," Lindsey said. "We don't want to go through a major disaster and have to coordinate with resources that we need. You want to go ahead and have this in place, and that's what this is doing. It helps us protect our county and our citizens."

The county would be reimbursed for labor and equipment for assistance in other counties, and the county would also have to reimburse other counties who helped locally.

Lindsey also told the Commission that FEMA was reinstating the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that would supplement the salary of county EMA directors. The grant allocations had been halted in October of 2025, Lindsey said. She added that the county would gain about $30,160 to be paid in increments, if they signed the agreement with FEMA.

Hare added that she had learned at a recent conference that FEMA would also give additional funds to make up for the years when they did not provide the funding.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the agreement to accept the grant funds.

The Commission then voted to recess the meeting until Monday, September 14 at 9 a.m. to discuss budget allocations.

LOCAL ARREST RECORD

The following is a list of individuals arrested by local law enforcement over the past two weeks.
All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

From the Choctaw County Sheriff's Office

Shuna Latrelle McGrew 9/1/26 Fail to Appear (Speed).

Gabriel Levon Mosley 9/2/26 Domestic Violence 3rd (menacing), Criminal Mischief 3rd.

Susan Elizabeth Higdon 9/4/26 Failure to Pay (Fraud use credit/debit card).

Keisha Deon Riley 9/4/26 Failure to Pay (Possession Controlled Substance).

Shardae Monique Hicks 9/6/26 Fail to Appear (Speed).

St Carlos Boyd 9/5/26 Domestic Violence 3rd.

Arlander Bunn 9/4/26 Probation Revocation, Possession Controlled Substance, Failure to Pay (Theft of Property 4th).

State warns cattle buyers about fake Facebook sellers after $100,000 in losses

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries is warning cattle buyers and producers about fake social media pages posing as real Alabama cattle operations, after one such page took more than $100,000 from buyers who believed they were purchasing bred heifers.

Since July, a family-owned Alabama cattle operation has been getting calls from people trying to buy cattle it never advertised, Deputy Commissioner Hassey Brooks told WBRC, and in recent weeks out-of-state buyers who had already paid showed up to collect cattle that did not exist. The heifers were offered at about $3,300 a head, just under market price.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's rural crimes unit and the Alabama Securities Commission are investigating. The department urged buyers to verify sellers, ask for references, confirm an operation is real and look closely at listing photographs, some of which are generated by artificial intelligence, before sending money.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Choctaw County Commission will be accepting applications for employment until October 1, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. for the following position:
One (1) or more Heavy/Medium Equipment Operator (full or part time) the Road & Bridge Department. Applications can be picked up at the Choctaw County Engineer's Office, 239 Fire Tower Road, Toxey, AL.
"Choctaw County Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

More drought, forage help - from front page

livestock. It also covers producers of grazed forage on native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or acreage planted specifically for grazing. Producers should schedule an appointment at their county FSA office to apply.

Choctaw County producers can apply through the FSA office at the USDA Service Center in Butler.

More screwworms - from front page

transport the animal.

Hunters can protect themselves by keeping wounds clean and covered, using an EPA-registered insect repellent and clothing and gear treated with 0.5 percent permethrin, sleeping under screens or bed nets outdoors, and checking harvested animals and themselves for larvae after a hunt. Anyone who finds maggots in or on a wound should contact a health care provider immediately.

The hunters' page, a fact sheet and a wallet card are at screwworm.gov.

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• Duties include operations of 9-1-1 computer-aided dispatch, NCIC system, emergency preparedness weather warning sirens, and radio as required.
• Must be able to multi-task and react to high stress situations
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VIEWPOINTS

BLONDE AMBITION

A new Olympic discovery on Labor Day


Dee Ann Campbell

It was a wise choice for Labor Day -- or so I thought at the time.

When the first Monday in September rolls around each year, I find myself remembering that day a few years ago when my choice of 'labor' for the day led to a sore head, a bruised ego, and a strange new sporting event that might have become a new option for the Olympics.

While the rest of the world was off work on that Monday, no doubt enjoying a little fishing or picnicking or throwing a little chicken on the grill, I was working yet again. My husband was working in Tennessee at the time, and I was home alone in my loft apartment above my office.

But this time, I decided that I wouldn't just sit in my desk and work on my next issue of the paper, as I typically did on Labor Day. Instead, I would spend the afternoon working on a project to install a new bathroom in my upstairs home.

I had gotten much done on the project already. The plumbers had nearly completed their work, I had selected my fixtures and my tile, and I had pulled the majority of that old 70s-style paneling from the walls, revealing the former glory of the 100+-year-old building. I was down to the last large piece of that ugly old paneling. One more piece and all the remnants of that tired old décor would be gone, and my beautiful, century-old, 'shiplap' wall would be revealed.

I climbed up on my ladder to unleash that piece of paneling from the top of the wall. Standing high on the ladder, I pushed the drop-ceiling sheetrock panels away from their resting place, shoving them nicely one behind another inside that ceiling, and proceeded to tug on the nails that held the piece of paneling in place.

That was apparently not a wise choice.

As I jerked hard on that nail and pulled on the paneling, a small but very evil piece of sheetrock wiggled its way out of its hole and came crashing down, right on top of my head. The whole ordeal made me drop my hammer from the top of that ladder, rub my sore head, and think a few expletives or two as I made my way down that ladder for the hundredth time to get my hammer.

My head hurt, my ego was bruised, and that ugly paneling was still on the wall.

Despite my injuries, it wasn't long before I was finished with that project, and all that ugly old paneling was now lying in a heap on the floor – small pieces, tiny giblets, and some large nearly-wall-sized panels, all lying there in piles of rubble in my new soon-to-be bathroom floor.

It was then that I decided that the wise thing to do at that moment would be to clean up that room, so I began to gather up all those pieces of torn-down paneling and drag them out of the room, down the 19 steps that led to the bottom floor, and out the back door of the building. For a while, I ran up and down those steps with little problem, carrying smaller pieces and dragging larger ones. At one point after about my 20th weary trip down those stairs, I decided that my best option would be to stack those large panels up, tuck them under my arms, and carry three or four of them at one time.

That was apparently not a wise choice either.

With four very large sheets of paneling under my arm, I proceeded to put my plan in action. I dragged them to the top of the stairs, but before I knew it, one of those pieces of paneling had slipped out of my overloaded arms and down onto the next step below me. A split-second after it landed on the steps, so did my left foot – right on top of the panel. The next thing to hit was my back side, with a very loud, painful thud, and I found myself sitting atop that piece of ragged paneling as it teetered on those steep steps.

What happened next is not quite clear. In some strange occurrence that I cannot fully explain, that piece of paneling proceeded to slide down those stairs like a massive wooden sled, taking me with it as it bounded down those 18 steps to the bottom. I can only equate the action with some like of freakish sporting event gone awry, and I can honestly say I have never seen any sledding event quite like it in the Olympics.

Within a few seconds, my paneling sled had crashed to a stop at the bottom of the steps, coming to a rest on the tile below. For a few minutes, I sat there on my sled, looking around me in shock.

After the initial shock wore off, I considered whether or not I may have a broken bone or two. I thought about yelling 'I've fallen and I can't get up', but I was quite sure that, since no one else was laboring on that Labor Day, I would get no help or sympathy from anyone.

So I sat there on my sled and thought about the situation.

After a few minutes of checking arms and legs and elbows and heads, I determined that I was relatively unbroken, with only a bruised 'area' or two to claim as injury.

The largest bruise was obviously to my ego.

I finally eased myself back up that flight of stairs, and on the way up I decided to change my plans for that Labor Day. I eased past that bathroom, refused to even look inside, and made my way to my desk.

It was then that I decided that working on the next issue of the newspaper was not such a bad way to spend Labor Day after all.

It was definitely the wise choice.

Bill King:

When The World Stopped Turning

September 11th was simply another ordinary date until that day 25-years ago when it wasn't. It still isn't a holiday, and perhaps never will become one, but it is certainly a day we should never forget. It was a day that changed our lives. It was a day of events that altered how we live our lives. Alan Jackson sang the question, "Where were you when the world stopped turning, that September day?" It was one of those days like the day when President Kennedy was shot or the morning Pearl Harbor was bombed. Those who are old enough to remember those horrific events remember exactly where and when they heard the news. On November 22, 1963, I was in the 3rd grade at Plainview Elementary School. I still don't know how he knew, but that afternoon a fellow student came down our hall saying that President Kennedy had been shot. I was barely old enough to comprehend what had happened, but I still remember it vividly.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was driving to my office at Gracewood Baptist Church, in Southaven, Mississippi, when I heard the news on my radio that an airplane had crashed into one the towers of The World Trade Center in New York. Less than 30-minutes later we learned that another plane had crashed into the other tower. Soon afterwards both towers collapsed to the ground. Later that same morning a third jet crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth plane, that is believed to have been aiming for the White House, crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people senselessly died that morning at the hands of 19 hijackers. Although that seems like only a few years ago, this week marks the 25th anniversary of those horrendous actions.

These kinds of events have a way of changing our lives. These happenings have caused us to be more cautious as we've realized how dangerous our world has become. After seeing the movie "Jaws" in 1975, I've never gone back into the water without at least wondering if I might lose a limb or my life to a shark. Since the 9-11 events, I have continued to fly but never without wondering if it was safe. I am thankful for the tightened security at our airports, but simply boarding a plane has become a major ordeal. Many areas of our lives will never be the same, and perhaps they should not be.

The night after the 9-11 attacks, we had an impromptu prayer gathering at church. Many churches across the nation did the same. People were angry, frightened, and nervous, as we wondered what might happen next. The world had not stopped turning, but many who may have stopped turning to God, stopped once again to do so in our time of great need. Even with hardly any time to get the word out, about 40 people showed up on that Tuesday evening at my church to pray. The next night was our regular prayer meeting and Bible study night and we had about twice as many as we normally had. The following Sunday, our sanctuary was packed. For the next month, we had some of the highest attendances not only in my church, but in numerous others across the nation. The world did continue to turn, and in many ways, life slowly returned to normal. I pray we never have another day like September 11, 2001, but how nice it would be to see so many of God's people continue to come together in worship and prayer…and not just when something horrible has happened.

MY VIEW

Where were you when the world stopped turning?


Tommy Campbell

As country music icon Alan Jackson so vividly wrote in his song, where were you when the world stopped turning on that beautiful September day, 25 years ago this Friday, when demonic jihadist savages brought death and destruction to the United States, unlike anything we had seen since Pearl Harbor?

On September 11, 2001, we awoke to one of the most beautiful, cloudless, Indian Summer days one could imagine.

But that would horrifically change by mid-morning.

For years, we, as a nation had grown complacent and foolishly allowed radical islamic terrorists to waltz into America, set up shop, and lay plans for a cowardly ambush that will forever be branded on the hearts and souls of everyone who lived through it, in person or who watched in horror as our homeland came under attack.

9/11.

Yeah ... you remember where you were when you heard the news that one jet -- then two -- had crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York.

You remember where you were when you heard a third had crashed into the Pentagon, and then a fourth in a field in rural Pennsylvania.

I know I do.

I was headed to work as editor of The Advocate, in Butler, listening to my friend, DJ Henry "T" Tyson's morning show, on WPRN Radio, when he interrupted a song with the news that a plane had crashed into one of the skyscrapers in NYC.

I worked with him for four years as a fellow DJ and had known him all my life. He and I talked every morning even after I left the station, and from the tone of his voice, I knew that this was not going to end well.

Just after he finished his report, my cell rang.

"Brother, you need to get to work and turn your TV on," he said. "I'm telling you, this is going to be as bad as it gets," Henry prophesied.

I hurried to my office and pulled up the news to images that could have come straight out of the pit of hell.

Thousands of innocent people died that day for no reason other than a band of satan-possessed, godless monsters -- who hate anyone who doesn't cow-tow to their cruel, iron-fisted ideology -- decided they would slaughter themselves and anyone else in the paths of those hijacked jetliners.

For the next week, we lived in a state of fear and uncertainty as to what might happen next. Air traffic stopped. Ships were ordered not to leave port. Eighteen-wheelers were idled from coast to coast.

September 11th changed us alright ... but polar opposite of what the terrorists had hoped. It brought us closer together. It made us appreciate what is really important in life and the hereafter. It brought us to our knees, but not in submission to Osama bin Laden or radical Islam.

See **VIEW**, Page 5

A work in progress is faith in action

By Travis Vaughn
Co-Publisher

Last week we almost missed the deadline to get printed.

We were a day late getting the papers in the mail.

I'm still not sure we have the web edition figured out.

All this despite our best efforts.

Now, this week, we have a Monday holiday. As many of you know in your own professions, sometimes Monday holidays are worse than having no holiday at all.

Everything you would normally do for your job on Monday gets compacted into either a holiday version of a Monday workday or a Monday-Tuesday-all-in-one marathon.

For the record, we worked Monday, and Tuesday is going well so far, but I certainly don't want to jinx the progress.

What I do want to do is thank everyone for their patience and assistance.

Tommy and Dee Ann Campbell remain our angels, patiently helping us with all the details of a new venture.

The United States Postal Service folks have been wonderful, too.

We have talented writers, photographers, and video people working hard, along with contributors of all sorts.

To our readers and subscribers, we thank you for your passion for the newspapers that serve your communities.

We are working hard to bring you the kind of community journalism you deserve, and we are so appreciative of each of you and our advertisers.

My family has always joked that we always seem to be laboring on Labor Day.

A work in progress is still work, and work is an act of hope and faith.

"Laborare est orare." - To work is to pray.

Amen.

Email your sports and outdoors photos to
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

Have something to say? Write a letter to the editor!
Include your name and contact information.
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

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NEW CONTACT INFORMATION for
The Choctaw Sun-Advocate
By Email:
sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com
By Phone: 1-251-843-6397
By Mail:
P.O. Box 541 • Demopolis, AL 36732

CHOCTAW LIVING

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

HOMECOMING, Red Springs Baptist Church, 10 a.m., with The Bibletones Quartet singing; Worship service, 11 a.m., with former pastor Bro Steve Avera; fellowship dinner to follow.

GOSPEL EXPLOSION, Halsell Church of God, 14975 County Road 9, Lisman; 2 p.m.; Guest speaker Pastor James McGhee Jr.

SUN., SEPT. 13th - WED., SEPT. 16th

HOMECOMING AND REVIVAL, Little Hope Baptist Church; Homecoming Sunday, 2 p.m. with Rev. Thaddeus Douglas, guest speaker; Revival Mon. – Wed. at 7 p.m.; Rev. Chris Holcombe, guest speaker.

Free forest carbon workshop set Sept. 24 in Linden

Landowners can learn about no-cost ways to earn income from their forestland at a free Family Forest Carbon Program workshop Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Marengo County Economic Development Center, 2400 E. Coats Ave., Linden.

Two sessions are planned: “Fields and Forests: Turn Your Idle Fields Into Forests and Income” and “Growing Mature Forests: Delayed Harvest on Natural Hardwoods.” The Family Forest Carbon Program, a partnership of the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, pays family landowners for forest practices that store carbon.

Lunch will be provided, and the workshop offers two hours of forestry and professional logging manager continuing education credit.

The workshop is hosted by the Marengo County Forestry Committee in partnership with the Alabama Forestry Foundation, Alabama Extension, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Alabama Wildlife Federation and the Marengo County Conservation District.

To register, call 334-318-4024.

More My View - from previous page

It opened our eyes to the fact that we are vulnerable and that, just as on Dec. 7, 1941, we can never turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the maniacal schemes of some pip-squeak thug half a world away, NOR right here on our home turf.

But even though we "remember", are we willing to stand up and vote our convictions today?

Folks, please listen to me ... we have elections coming up. We need people in those offices -- from right here in Choctaw and Marengo counties, to Montgomery, to Washington -- who understand the stakes. To vote otherwise would be incredibly stupid, ignorant, and totally irresponsible.

We must have leaders who understand that the terrorist threat we face is far greater today than it was on 9/11, and that no amount of "civil discourse" will change their twisted mindsets.

Just look at the rise of this so-called Democratic Socialism mess ... a gang of communist, marxist-sympathizing idiots who want to destroy our American way of life in favor of the type of failed Russian, Chinese, North Korean, Cuban, and radicalized islamic governments that have shackled, enslaved, and murdered millions of their own people in the past century.

We must have leaders who understand that the only way to deal with terrorist scumwads is to give our intelligence-gathering and military heroes a mission, turn 'em loose and let them do what they do best ... root out and destroy this insidious, malignant cancer before it destroys us.

Otherwise, I fear that we may wake up one day to yet another attack, only this time, one that will In the past two years, right here in America, we have seen ignorance and stupidity on full display, rallying around that pond scum Hamas that slaughtered, raped, kidnapped and tortured more than 1,000 people in Israel ... rioting in the streets, taking over college campuses, and burning our precious Stars and Stripes.

We have seen our Federal law enforcement officers of ICE -- who, by the way, are out there doing their jobs, to round up and deport CRIMINAL ALIENS -- villanized and viciously attacked by these same woke mobs.

Count the number of radical Islamic thugs, communists, marxists, and liberal left-wing socialists that have already been elected to the U.S. Congress who could care less if America falls and fails.

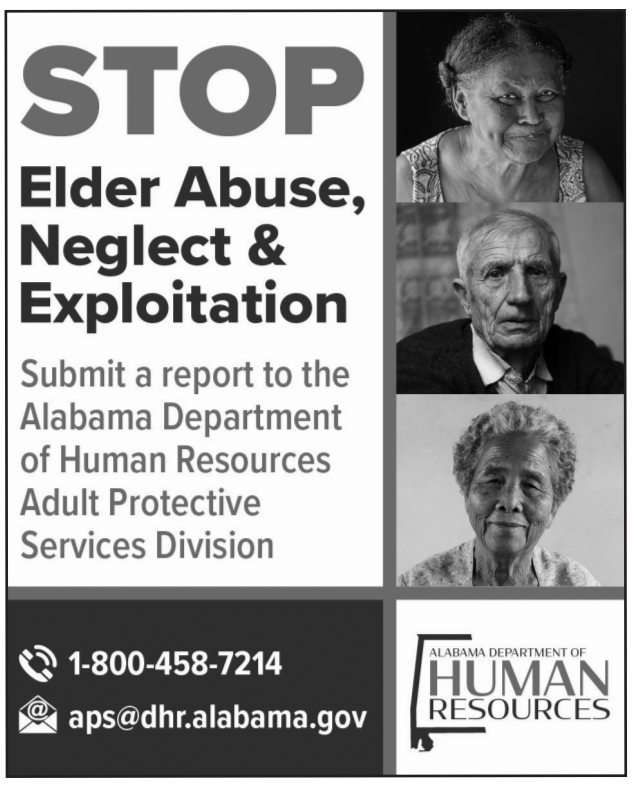
Now is NOT the time for incompetence and weakness in leadership positions in ANY elected office and we had all better think long and hard before we mark that ballot on Nov. 3, and make sure we vote for candidates who will STAND UP FOR THE FAITH AND FREEDOMS that were bought and paid for by the blood, sweat, sacrifice and tears of our men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

As we reflect on the 25th anniversary of that September day that now seems so long ago and far away, yet nearer than it has ever been, I just want to say that I for one am PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN and will never, ever apologize or make excuses for those precious freedoms that made this country the greatest on the face of God's earth.

Stay informed - it's the public's right to know...

Public notices are also available online at alabamapublicnotices.com

News, sports, community events -
Your *Choctaw Sun-Advocate*



REGIONAL /STATE CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

APPLIANCE REPAIR: Prompt local service available for appliance repair. Washer/Dryer, Dishwasher, Refrigerator, Stove/Oven and all major appliances. Certified, Insured techs. Satisfaction guaranteed. Call to schedule your appointment now! 1-877-441-0132

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WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1371 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-7885

FOR SALE

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-683-2005 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE $350 today! 1-877-930-3506

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NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-403-4821

AUTOMOTIVE

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-426-0193

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-724-3049 today!

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-426-0193

CHOCTAW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
107 TOM ORR DRIVE
BUTLER, AL 36904

Notice

Budget Hearings

August 31, 2026

The first budget hearing of the Choctaw County Board of Education has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Choctaw County Board of Education in the conference room.

The second budget hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Choctaw County Board of Education.

HUGE 1-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

Deanco Auctioneers

Huge Contractors Equipment & Truck Auction
Wednesday, September 16th
Auction Starts at 9:00am
1042 Holland Ave • Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

Selling All Types of Construction Equipment, including: Dozers, Excavators, Motor Graders, Rubber-tired Loaders, Backhoes, Skid Steers, Compaction Eq.. Also selling Dump Trucks, Truck Tractors, Specialty Trucks, Trailers, Forklifts, Logging Equip., Farm Tractors, Pickups, Vehicles, Attachments, Misc. & Much More!!

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Live Onsite and Online Bidding - Auctioneer: Donnie W Dean, #733, MSGL #835
10% Buyers Premium on the first $5000 of each lot and then a 3% buyers premium and the remaining balance of each lot.

Thanks for reading!

Even small ads have big results! Email us today to get started.



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Tree Removal
Top Trees
Trim Trees
Licensed and bonded

We buy any amount of standing timber and delivered timber.

L. MEADOR FOREST
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Lanier Meador, Owner
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Butler, AL 36904

Office 205-459-2822
Home 205-459-2046
Cellular 1-205-604-8174

CLASSIFIEDS AND PUBLIC NOTICES

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT - Trailer lot only, Acre and 1/4. Electric and Water. 334-633-9192. LTS

LAND FOR SALE: Approximately 28 forested acres in Butler, AL. Call 205-459-3795 for more information.

LAND FOR SALE, 20 acres in Choctaw County, 205-691-2986 LTS

HOMES FOR SALE

• Newly-renovated 3-bedroom 2-bath home on .61 acres at 143 Broad Street, Gilbertown,

• 3-bedroom 2-bath home on 1 acre at 964 Wimberly Road, Gilbertown, with finished shop, patio, and enclosed carport

• 4-bedroom 3.5-bath with formal dining and living room at 406 Patrick Place, Butler.

Call Village Properties at 205-457-1909. LTS

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — 1999 16x80 mobile home, 3BR, 2 full Baths, large living room and kitchen. $15,500. Call 1-334-643-0489. LTS

FOR SALE – Like new 2024 Kawasaki Vulcun 900 Classic LT – 230 miles, $6500; Text Mike at 205-457-2060. LTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
FILE NO. S-2026-00024
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF REMINGTON DRAKE FAILE, a minor
NOTICE OF HEARING
TO: RICHARD BRYAN FAILE

You will please take notice that on the 21st day of April, 2026, a certain paper in writing, Petition for Appointment of Conservator, was filed in my office for Probate, by ERICA B. CARNEY and that the 23th day September, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. was appointed a day for hearing thereof, at which time you can appear and contest the same, if you see proper.

Given under my hand this 11th day of August, 2026.
JASON B. STURDIVANT
PROBATE JUDGE
4T 09.09.26

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
CASE NO. S-2026-00050
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CATHERINE REBECCA TAYLOR, ALSO KNOWN AS CATHERINE B. TAYLOR, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 17th day of August, 2026 by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

OLEN BRUCE TAYLOR, JR., Executor
Of the Estate of CATHERINE REBECCA TAYLOR,
ALSO KNOWN AS CATHERINE B. TAYLOR
212 COLONIAL DRIVE
BUTLER, AL 36904
3T 09.09.26

STATE OF ALABAMA
CHOCTAW COUNTY
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that Tonya Giles Whigham, as Administratrix of the Este of Leon Harvey Giles, AKA Leon Harvey Giles, Sr., deceased, filed her report, for a final settlement of her administration on the 10th day of April, 2026, and that the 25th day of September, 2026, at 9:00 A.M., has been appointed the day and time to hear said settlement.

Done this 19th day of August, 2026
Jason B. Sturdivant,
Judge of Probate
3T 09.09.26

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
CASE NO. A-2026-00015
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROY C. DICKS, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 27 rh day of August, 2026 by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

LEIGH EZELL McCLELLAN, Executrix of the Estate of ROY C. DICKS
13159 Deer Crest Lane
Mobile, AL 36695
published 9/2; 9/9; 9/16/26

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
CASE NO. S-2026 - 00053
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PEGGY C. JACKSON, DECEASED
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 27th day of August 2026 by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

ROGER WAYNE JACKSON, Executor of the Estate of Peggy C. Jackson
4564 Lusk Road
Gilbertown, AL 36908
published 9/2; 9/9; 9/16/26

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received by Sentell Engineering, Inc, at 639 Black Bears Way, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401, until 2:00 P.M., September 24, 2026, for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and service required to construct Town of Silas Walking Trail, RTP#24-RT-53-02, located in the Town of Silas, Alabama.

Bids submitted prior to the bid opening, in person shall be delivered to the office of the Town Clerk, Town of Silas 130 Indian Way, Silas, Alabama or by mail, shall be directed to "City Clerk, same address as above".

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the above time and place. Specifications, and Contract Documents are open to the public for inspection at Town Hall. Electronic (pdf) and Hard Copy Specifications, and Contract Documents may be obtained from Tusca Blue, Tuscaloosa, AL (Phone: (205) 752-9825), for $50.00. All bidders must be registered with Sentell Engineering Inc. at (205) 752-5564 via Donna Shelton in order to submit a bid. Bids received from unregistered bidders will be rejected.

A cashier's check drawn on an Alabama bank, payable to the Town of Silas, Alabama, or a bid bond executed by a surety company duly authorized and qualified to make such bonds in Alabama, in an amount equal to the lessor of five percent (5%) of the bid or ten thousand dollars ($10,000), shall be submitted with each bid. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any and all bids.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for the satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond or Bonds in the amount required by Section 39-1-1(a), Code of Alabama 1975 and evidence of insurance as required by the bid documents within ten (10) days after being notified that he has been awarded the contract. No bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The bidder must comply with all requirements of the public works bid law Section 39-2-1 et seq., Code of Alabama 1975.

Any bidder, whether a resident or non-resident of the State of Alabama, must comply with all applicable provisions of Section 34-8-1, et.seq., Code of Alabama, 1975, including requirements for licensing as a general contractor and the necessity to show evidence of license, before the bid will be considered by the awarding authority. A current license number must be included on the bid envelope.

Bidders must comply with the President's Nos. 11246 and 11375 which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must also comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

By signing this contract, the contracting parties affirm, for the duration of the agreement, that they will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ an unauthorized alien within the state of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed in breach of the agreement and shall be responsible for all damages resulting therefrom.

Bidders must certify that they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on a basis of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must also certify they will make facilities handicap accessible to the extent required by law.

THE TOWN OF SILAS, ALABAMA
Harold DeVane, Mayor
Sara Welford, City Clerk
published Sept. 2, Sept. 9, Sept. 16, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS
ESTATE OF WALTER EDDIE CRAIG

Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of August, 2026, Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Walter Eddie Craig, deceased, were issued to the undersigned by the Probate Judge of Choctaw County, Alabama. All persons having claims against the estate must file itemized and verified statements of such claims in the Office of the Judge of Probate of

Choctaw County, Alabama, within six (6) months after the granting of Letters Testamentary or the claims will be barred.

This 12th day of August, 2026.
/s/ Michelle D. Craig
Personal Representative
published 9/2; 9/9; 9/16/26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES L. SMITH
Case No. S-2026-00045

Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 7 th day of August, 2026, by the Probate Judge of Choctaw County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same, duly sworn to, in the Probate Court of said County within the time allowed by law, or else same will be forever barred.

Carolyn Smith Rohe
Personal Representative
published 9/2; 9/9; 9/16/26

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
CASE NO. S-2026 - 00054
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LILLIE RUTH ALLEN, DECEASED.
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 27th day of August 2026 by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

WILLIAM MARK ALLEN,
Executor of the Estate of LILLIE RUTH ALLEN
17340-A Sawyer Road
Robertsdale, AL 36957
published Sept. 2, Sept. 9, Sept. 16, 2026

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act, the Alabama Fair Housing Law, and the Mobile Code, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, or ancestry, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. To report discrimination, call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (HUD) at (800) 669-9777. The HUD TTY number for the hearing impaired is (212) 708-1455.

STATE OF ALABAMA
IN THE PROBATE COURT
CHOCTAW COUNTY
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF I.AURA W. ADAMS, DECEASED.
CASE NO. S-2026-00055
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 1st day of September, 2026 by the Honorable JASON B. STURDIVANT, Judge of the Probate Court of Choctaw County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

LEVORD ADAMS, JR., Executor of the Estate of LAURA W. ADAMS
338 Harbor Glen Drive
Madison, AL 35756
published 9/2; 9/9; 9/16/26

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CHOCTAW COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN RE: The Estate of CALVIN NELSON BURTON, Deceased
Case No. _____
PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION UNDER § 43-2-692

To the Honorable Jason Sturdivant, Judge of Probate Court, Choctaw County:

The undersigned petitioner, CYNTHIA BURTON, respectfully represents that the decedent CALVIN NELSON BURTON, departed this life at the City of Grove Hill, County of Clarke, on or about the 13th day of November, 2021, leaving no last will and testament, so far as your Petitioner knows or believes.

Further that the said decedent, CALVIN NELSON BURTON, at the time of his death an inhabitant of Choctaw County [or died seized and possessed of real and/or personal estate in this State and County consisting chiefly of the following]:

Bank Account in the amount of $7,530.98.

Total value of estate is approximately $7,530.98.

Further, that the names, residence, ages and conditions of the heirs and distributees of the estate of the said decedent, so far as you petitioner knows or believes are as follows, to-wit:

1. Cynthia Burton, Wife, Competent, age 57, 134 Pintail Road, Silas, Alabama 36919.

2. Calvin Nelson Burton, Jr., Son, Competent, age 20, 134 Pintail Road, Silas, Alabama 36919.

The Petitioner avers that the value does not exceed the maximum of the value the Small Estate Act § 43-2-690. All bills of the estate including the funeral expenses have been paid or have arrangements to be paid and there are no outstanding debts of the decedent.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED the Petitioner ask that the Court accept this Petition.

WAIVER OF NOTICE ON SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

I, CALVIN NELSON BURTON, JR., a resident of Choctaw County, State of Alabama, being the surviving spouse or one of the next-of-kin (as determined by application of the Ala. Code §43-8-41 or 43-8-42, as appropriate) of CALVIN NELSON BURTON, deceased, being over the age of nineteen (19) years, hereby accept service and waive notice of the filing of the petition to probate the summary distribution (including all codicils thereto) of said decedent. I do hereby waive notice either by personal service or by publication and consent and request that said summary distribution be admitted to probate without further notice of any kind to me, and the personal representative named in said will be appointed as provided therein. I acknowledge that by this Waiver of Notice I am NOT giving up my right to contest said summary distribution or to make an objection to the handling of the administration of the estate of the deceased by the personal representative thereof.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2026.

CALVIN NELSON BURTON, JR.

Published 9/2, 9/9, 9/16/26

NOTICE

Lewis General Contractors, Inc. hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the Town of Butler for construction of Project No. 2503 in Choctaw County. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning September 10, 2026 and ending October 1, 2026. All claims should be filed at 25 West Front Street, Thomasville, AL 36784 during this period. Lewis General Contractors, Inc. *published 9/9; 9/16, 9/23, 9/30/26*

SERVICES

Available to sit with elderly, sick, or disabled. Experienced and can provide references.

Call 205-499-4922.

Southern Choctaw Elementary reminds about attendance policies

Attendance

Students who have consecutive unexcused absences totaling four or more will receive a letter and notice to appear in Early Warning Court.

Students having eighteen (18) or more absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be considered chronically absent due to the new state requirements.

Every absence must be explained in writing. Parental excuses are limited to four days (4) per semester. For example, if your child is absent for four days there will be a note required for each day the student is absent. After the four parental notes are exhausted, a doctor's note must be presented for the absence to be excused.

NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE THIRD DAY THE STUDENT HAS RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

Tardies

School begins at 8:00 a.m. Students are expected to be in their classes at this time. If a student arrives at school after 8:00 a.m., he/she must be checked in at the front office by the parent or guardian.

Students who wish to eat breakfast need to arrive to school by 7:45 to ensure they are in the classroom by 8:00 and do not receive a tardy.

If a student is late three consecutive school days, or for a total of 5 times per month, or 7 times a grading period, a notice will be sent home to schedule a conference with the principal to discuss the reasons for the continued tardiness. If this does not alleviate the problem then the tardiness will be considered as neglect, and the case will be referred to the school social worker.

SCA, PA, Southern Choctaw win; CCHS loses this past Friday

South Choctaw Academy 24, Southern Academy 8

It took a little while, but the South Choctaw Academy Rebels were finally able to pull away from some pesky Southern Academy Cougars on Friday night, September 4, in Greensboro.

The Cougars got on the board first, scoring with 9:30 left in the second quarter to take the 8-0 lead.

With 1:38 left in the half, Dawson Sikes scored a touchdown from 15 yards out, and the two point conversion by Kade Carroll tied the game at 8 all.

With 42 seconds left in the third quarter,#3 Kade Carroll hit a 2 yard TD run and a two-point play to make the score 16-8 in favor of SCA.

In the fourth quarter with 4:15 left, #11 John Taylor Railey scored a touchdown on a 8 yd run. With the two pt. conversion by Carroll, the Rebels recorded a final score of 24-8.

Briar Grice led the way for the Reb on defense with 8 tackles, 6 assists, and a fumble recovery.

The Rebels' defense held SA to 133 total yards.

Patrician Academy 35, Monroe Academy 19

The Patrician Academy Saints went on the road and defeated the Monroe Academy Vols 35-19 Friday night, Sept. 4, to improve to 3-0 on the season.

Patrician Academy jumped out early on Monroe Academy, scoring twice in the first quarter, before adding two more touchdowns in the second quarter. The Saints took a 27-7 lead into halftime, thanks to three touchdown rushes by Ethan Carr and a 49-yard interception return pick-six by Bryson Reid.

Ridge Russell added another rushing TD for the Saints in the fourth.

On defense, Reid had 10.5 tackles, while Carr added 8.

McIntosh 36, Choctaw County 30

Southern Choctaw 28, Washington County 6

(Washington County's game at Southern Choctaw was postponed to Saturday.)

Patrician at Monroe





Patrician Academy defeated Monroe Academy 35-19 on the road Friday night, September 4. Photos by Elizabeth Perry

Chamber of Commerce to hold annual dinner October 1

United Way of Southwest Alabama to join in awards presentations

BUTLER – The Choctaw County Economic Development Alliance (former Chamber of Commerce) will hold its annual dinner on Thursday, October 1, at The Warehouse in Butler.

The event will include presentations of awards for Choctaw County Business of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Organization of the Year, and the annual Tim Pearson Memorial Award for Community Service.

The United Way of Southwest Alabama will partner with the Chamber at this year's dinner to present their annual Choctaw County Heart of Gold Awards.

Andrew Noble, President of Georgia-Pacific's Tissue Towel and Napkin Division, will be keynote speaker for the event.



Andrew Noble

Noble started leading the GP Retail Tissue Towel and Napkin (TTN) business this past March. He and the extended team focus on ensuring GP Retail TTN delivers value to its consumers through a portfolio of products and customer brands.

A graduate of Oglethorpe University with a B.S. in Accounting, Noble joined Georgia-Pacific in 1997, spending the first 10+ years of his career in Accounting and Finance roles in Building Products, the Palatka mill, and the Retail TTN and Dixie businesses. He transitioned into general management roles in 2009 and worked on different parts of the Dixie business from 2009-2016. Prior to taking on his current role, he led the Angel Soft and Dixie Plates businesses.

Members of the CCEDA (Chamber) will receive special invitations with some complimentary tickets to the event, and the public is also invited to attend.

Seating is limited, and RSVP (by September 23) is required for attendance.

Tickets will be $40 each, or $75 per couple.

For information, contact the CCEDA at 205-459-3459 or email choctawchamber@tds.net.

Thank you for reading!

Sun-Advocate



Hall graduates Air Force basic training

Walter Wayne 'Tripp' Hall, III received his Air Force coin and was named an Honor graduate of Air Force basic training on September 2. His flight earned Honor Flight, Academic Excellence, and Commander's Excellence.

Hunt
PIPELINE SAFETY
811
PLANNING TO EXCAVATE? | CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Statistics indicate that damage from excavation-related activities is a leading cause of pipeline accidents. If you are a homeowner, excavator, farmer, or developer, we need your help in preventing pipeline emergencies.

Because pipeline markers do not reveal the exact location or depth of the pipeline, we are asking that everyone use the One-Call system before digging anywhere.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE?

These are pipeline markers used to identify pipelines that carry crude oil from Hunt Crude Oil Suppy Company. At Hunt, we recognize the importance of community awareness regarding the locations of our pipelines.



Hunt is committed to public safety and the preservation of the environment. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge you need to help prevent and respond quickly to an accident.

Pipeline markers contain the name of the pipeline operator and an emergency phone number. Please call this number in the event of an emergency, or if you have questions or concerns about the pipeline.

For pipeline locations, visit www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NOTICE A SPILL

If you see a sign of an oil spill, you should leave the area immediately. Do not touch, breathe the fumes, or make contact with the spill. Do not light a match, start an engine, turn on/off any light switches or anything else that may cause a spark. From a safe location, call 911 and the pipeline company.

SIGNS OF AN OIL SPILL:

- A pool of black/dark brown liquid (crude oil) on the ground near a pipeline, rainbow sheen on water, or discolored vegetation.
- An unusual noise, such as a hissing or roaring sound.
- An unusual oily smell.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

Close contact may irritate eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. Vapors can be flammable and may cause fire and/or explosion if ignited.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT A SPILL?

Before you start digging, excavating, probing or blasting, make sure you know what is below. Contacting "One Call" at 811 is all you need to do to find out exactly what you are digging into.

"One Call" will inform all member companies with buried pipelines and utilities in your area so they can mark their lines. Within two working days, you will know if any underground utilities are located near your project.

If you have any questions regarding our pipelines, please contact Hunt Crude Oil Supply Company at (251) 771-6953.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

For more information visit www.call811.com

A fundraiser will be held for Timmy Mosley on September 12.
Fish plates with baked beans and coleslaw will be available for $12 per plate.
The sale is being sponsored by Tony Gibson and Ace Hardware.
Contact Tony at 205-604-9308 to pre-order.



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 11

- Choctaw County vs Southern Choctaw
- Patrician Aca. at Jackson Aca.
- South Choctaw Aca. at Monroe Aca.

We want your sports and outdoors photos!

Email them to sunadvocate@tombigbeenewsgroup.com

THANKS FOR READING -

CHOCTAW SUN-ADVOCATE

SunTV FOOTBALL

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Doc, Ltd.

Hardee's
CHARBROILED THICKBURGERS

FRIDAY, SEPT 11th

Patrician Academy at
JACKSON ACADEMY
www.youtube.com/@SunTVPatrician

South Choctaw Academy at
MONROE ACADEMY
www.youtube.com/@SunTVSCA

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Find YouTube channel URL under each game listings above

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